

New trivia game distinctive gift for collectors

By Roger Boye

Quick: Whose initials V.D.B. appear on some 1909 Lincoln cents?

That question and its answer [Victor David Brenner] are included in the Coin World Trivia game, perhaps the most distinctive hobby-related gift item on the market this year.

The staff of Coin World, a weekly hobby newspaper, spent four months compiling nearly 2,600 questions for Trivia, according to a company spokesman. Those queries are designed for both novice and expert collectors in six categories ranging from U.S. coins to mint lore.

Each boxed game includes color-coded question-answer cards, instructions and dice. No board is required, although players can adapt a board from another trivia game.

The cost of Coin World Trivia is \$17.95, post paid. Orders can be placed by calling, toll-free, 800-253-4555; persons buying by Dec. 8 should receive the merchandise before Christmas.

● If the collectors on your gift list prefer hobby trivia in book form, consider giving them copies of "Coins, Questions and Answers" by Clifford Mishler. The recently revised fourth edition contains detailed responses to 713 numismatic-related questions.

To order, send \$5.45 [includes postage and handling] to Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990. The book is available at some coin shops for \$3.95.

Krause also has released the fourth edition of its popular "Standard Catalog of United States Paper Money" by Chester Krause and Robert Lemke. The 192-page tome lists the retail values of more than 5,000 types of bills issued by Uncle Sam since the 1800s; also included is a fascinating seven-page section on error notes.

To order, send a check for \$16.50 plus \$2 for postage to Krause Publications at the aforementioned address. Some Chicago-area dealers are selling the book, too.

● More than \$2 million worth of gold, silver and platinum will be on display next week at a coin show organized by suburban dealer Joe Irmen. Also, as many as 130 hobbyists from several states will sell old coins during the show, and representatives of the U.S. Secret Service will talk about counterfeit currency.

The bourse area will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 8 at the O'Hare Exposition Center, 5555 River Road, Rosemont. Admission is free.

Q—My aunt gave us seven old silver dollars, each with a large "O" on the reverse. What does that letter mean?

P.H., Chicago

A—It's the mint mark for New Orleans, where government workers made coins until 1909.